

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00309 121337Z

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MANAMA 0309

TOSEC

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : OVIP,(KISSINGER,HENRY A.)
SUBJECT : BRIEFING GOB ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP

1. IN MARCH 12 MEETING, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO LET GOB FOREIGN MINISTER DOWN EASILY RE PROSPECTS SECRETARY'S VISITING LOWER GULF DURING CURRENT TRIP. ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER MARCH 10 HAD MADE STRONGEST PITCH I HAVE HEARD TO DATE FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT, GOB UNDERSTANDS PRESSING NATURE OF SECRETARY'S OTHER COMMITMENTS AND NEED TO CONCENTRATE DURING LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO HIM IN MIDDLE EAST ON CONTACTS WITH MIDDLE EAST STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PEACE QUESTION. FOREIGN MINISTER MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO ME HOWEVER THAT, KUWAIT ASIDE, GOB WOULD TAKE UMBRAGE SHOULD SECRETARY AT ANY POINT VISIT OTHER LOWER GULF STATES WITHOUT INCLUDING BAHRAIN ON HIS TRAVELS.

2. IN EXPRESSING GOB'S PESSIMISTIC BUT SINCERE SUPPORT FOR PRESENT U.S. PEACE EFFORT, PRIME MINISTER NOTED TO ME SLIGHT AWKWARDNESS GOB FEELS IN VIEW OF ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN RECEIVING EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN EMISSARIES TO BE BRIEFED ON THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO

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THEIR COUNTRIES. HE INDICATED GOB WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR

FULLEST POSSIBLE USG BRIEFING ON HOW U.S. EFFORT IS
EVOLVING. PRIME MINISTER STRESSED GOB'S APPRECIATION THAT
IT CAN MAKE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE INPUT TO U.S. QUEST FOR
MIDDLE EAST PEACE, BUT IS, OF COURSE, ANXIOUSLY AWARE
GOB MUST LIVE WITH THE RESULTS.

3. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND APPRECIATED GESTURE
IF AT SOME POINT DURING SECRETARY'S CURRENT VISIT TO
MIDDLE EAST AND AGAIN UPON ITS HOPEFULLY SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION, I COULD CONVEY TO GOB A SANITIZED
BRIEFING ON SECRETARY'S EFFORTS. OBVIOUSLY SUCH
BRIEFINGS WOULD BE DOUBLY APPRECIATED IF I WERE
AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT I WAS
CONVEYING A "PERSONAL MESSAGE" TO HIM FROM THE
SECRETARY WITH THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST THAT FOREIGN
MINISTER PASS MESSAGE ON TO AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER.
PRESUMABLY THIS SAME APPROACH WILL BE APPRECIATED BY
OTHER LOWER GULF GOVERNMENTS.
TWINAM

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NNN

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